



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 329**

*January Session, 2005*

House Bill No. 6414

*House of Representatives, April 13, 2005*

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. ROY of the 119th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING DESIGNATION OF THE EIGHTMILE RIVER WATERSHED WITHIN THE NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SYSTEM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2005*) (a) It is declared to be the  
2       policy of the state of Connecticut that the portion of the Eightmile  
3       River watershed which is the subject of the authorized study by the  
4       Eightmile River Wild and Scenic River Study Committee for purposes  
5       of designation as a national wild and scenic rivers system be preserved  
6       as provided for in the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Public Law  
7       90-542, as amended.

8       (b) The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall cooperate  
9       with all relevant federal, state and local agencies to provide for such  
10      designation and to implement any management plan developed in  
11      accordance with the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Upon the  
12      designation of the river watershed by Congress, the commissioner

13 shall notify the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
14 having cognizance of matters relating to the environment regarding  
15 any statutory changes necessary to implement the preservation and  
16 conservation of the river watershed in accordance with the federal  
17 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The commissioner shall cause a copy of  
18 this section to be delivered to all United States Representatives and  
19 Senators representing Connecticut in the Congress of the United States.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2005	New section

**ENV**      *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 06 \$	FY 07 \$
Department of Environmental Protection	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

Any increase in the administrative workload of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) due to the designation of the eight mile river watershed as a national wild and scenic river is anticipated to be minimal and could be handled within the routine duties of the agency. Mailing costs to the congressional delegation are anticipated to be negligible.

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**OLR Bill Analysis**

HB 6414

***AN ACT CONCERNING DESIGNATION OF THE EIGHTMILE RIVER WATERSHED WITHIN THE NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SYSTEM*****SUMMARY:**

This bill declares it state policy that the portion of the Eightmile River Watershed being studied for designation as a national Wild and Scenic River be preserved according to the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

It requires the environmental protection commissioner to cooperate with federal, state, and local agencies to provide for such a designation and implement any management plan developed according to the federal act. Upon congressional designation of the Eightmile River as a Wild and Scenic River, the commissioner must notify the Environment Committee of any changes in the law required to preserve the river under the federal act. The commissioner must send a copy of this bill to each member of the state's congressional delegation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2005

**BACKGROUND*****Eightmile River Watershed***

The Eightmile River watershed is a 62 square mile area with more than 160 miles of river and streams. Most of the watershed is located in East Haddam, Lyme, and Salem.

***Wild and Scenic Rivers Act***

The goal of the national Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (PL 90-542) is to protect rivers and river segments with outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, historical, or cultural values from federal projects that may endanger those values. The act prescribes methods and standards

through which rivers may be identified and added to the wild and scenic river system.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 26      Nay 0